



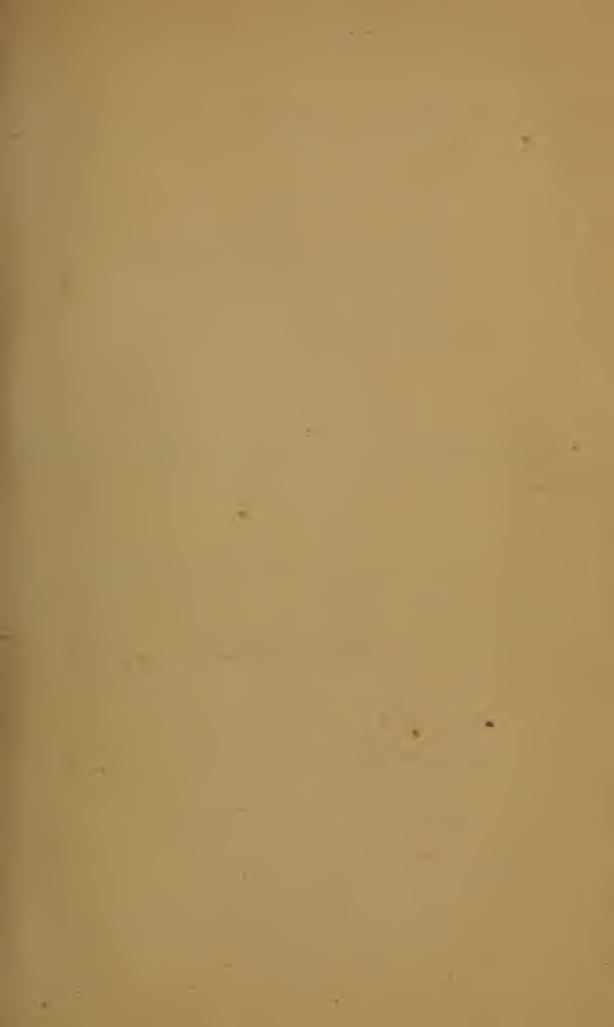
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HEART - BREATHINGS

OR

THE SOUL'S DESIRE

EXPRESSED IN EARNESTNESS,

A SERIES OF

Prayers, Meditations and Selections

FOR

"THE HOME CIRCLE."

By S. P. GODWIN.

"EVERY SOUL ON EARTH SHALL BEND THE KNEE." *Millon.*

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PREFACE.

IN presenting this unpretending little volume to the reader, extended remarks would be superfluous.

These impromptu Heart-breathings (expressed in the fear and love of the Lord, without regard to criticism,) are but the soul's earnest desire to do good and to receive good—"To dwell in the secret places of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty"—*the result is with God.*

Should a single word or a brief sentence herein contained reflect but one ray of sunshine, to illuminate a soul clouded in the midnight darkness of sin, the object is attained, and to God be all the praise.

The author did not intend this little book for public perusal, but at the solicitation of many friends, has concluded to publish it: his "soul's desire" being that "the seed sown in weakness" may yield abundant fruit to the glory of God.

S. P. G.

PRAYER.

"In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."—*Phil.* iv. 6.

PRAYER is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh;
The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath;
The Christian's native air;
The watchword at the gates of death—
He enters heaven with prayer.

O, Thou, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod,
Lord teach us how to pray.

Montgomery.

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MORAL GEMS.

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."—
Prov. xxv. 11.

OF all vices take heed of drunkenness. Other vices are but fruits of disordered affections; this disorders, nay, banishes reason. Other vices impair the soul; this demolishes her two chief faculties, the understanding and the will. Other vices make their own way, this makes way for all vices. He that is a drunkard is qualified for all vice.

ALL excess is ill, but drunkenness is of the worst sort. It spoils health, dismounts the mind, and unmans men. It reveals secrets, is quarrelsome, lascivious, impudent, dangerous, and mad. He that is drunk is not a man, because he is for so long devoid of reason that distinguishes a man from a beast.

GOD is Alpha and Omega in the great world; endeavor to make Him so in the little world; make

Him thy evening epilogue, and thy morning prologue ; practice to make Him thy last thought at night when thou sleepest, and thy first in the morning when thou wakest, so shall thy fancy be sanctified in the night, and thy understanding rectified in the day ; so shall thy rest be peaceful, thy labors prosperous, thy life pious, and thy death glorious.

WE can be in no such unhappy condition where God cannot help us, for the depths of misery are not beyond the depths of mercy. If comforts be wanting, God can create comforts not only out of nothing, but out of the greatest sorrows.

IT appears to me that the grace of God mends the head while it converts the heart. It brings the mind into such a holy, regular frame, that we can know nothing of the good of our own existence until we exist in God.

THERE are three principal reasons why so many do not enjoy as much happiness as they might : first, because they expect too much here below. Many of the most pious and sensible have been contented, but no one ever said he was completely happy. If we have religion and wealth, two of the most likely things to make us comfortable, perhaps we want health of body ; even if we possess that, some enemies or relations trouble us : all this is designed to teach

us that the world is not our home. Another thing that keeps us unhappy is looking up with envy at those above us. We fancy others must be more happy because they are more rich, more healthy, or have not so many enemies, though perhaps if we knew all things respecting them we would not change with them; but we should more frequently think of those below us, who are in hospitals, poor-houses or prisons, that are in extreme poverty, or blind, lame, dumb, insane, or under public disgrace. Lastly, we are frequently unhappy because we will not be satisfied with simplicity. The brute creation seem in general contented and happy; but man is not content with nature, but must have recourse to art and luxury to give him satisfaction; and if he has not as much of these as his neighbors or acquaintances, he seems to be determined to be unhappy. But let us consider how few are our real wants. If we have our liberty and any share of health, we have the principal requisites of natural happiness; and if, besides this, we have grace and the influence of the Spirit, we may be called happy persons.

BREAD and water, with the favor of God, are dainties. A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. This is for you that have plenty of riches, and think that there will be no end thereto.

NO one should be fearful or envious at the prosperity and wealth of others, for they will soon die and go hence, as destitute as if they had lived in poverty.

IF I am living to gratify any appetites and passions, men may applaud me, but God will condemn me.

YOUR sins will find you out.

ALL MEN must die, they know not how soon, when or where. Prepare!

GOD says to the wicked, "Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver. My word is truth. I will do it." God is not a being that will lie.

WHOSO offereth praise glorifieth me, and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God. Ps. l. 23.

BAD goods require dark rooms; and as many articles of merchandise seem valuable till taken into the light, so there are many things which appear fair till they are set in the light of God's countenance. Before Him the friendships we often profess are nothing but instances of selfishness; and the prayers and praises we engage in are only the forms of godliness.

We may come to His house as His people come, sit and hear His words, and commend the preacher, and with our mouths show much love, while He sees our hearts going after our covetousness. And how dreadful to think that He will hereafter develope all, and divulge all respecting us; and that what we have always been before Him, we shall be made to appear before an assembled world! Could many now be seen by their fellow creatures as He sees them, they would blush to leave their dwelling. To what everlasting shame and contempt must they awake and arise at the last day.

IF a Christian, you will be singular, and while the world continues what it is, every Christian must be singular. Let any man, actuated by the Spirit, and governed by the precepts of the Gospel, pass through the various walks of life, and whom will he resemble? The majority? What says the Divine command: "Follow not the multitude to do evil," be not conformed to this world, "come out from among them and be separate." "But I shall be singular." And suppose you are; they would be singularly beautiful, singularly rich, singularly wise. But the righteous in all these, is more excellent than his neighbor. Religion is always praiseworthy. To be religious among the religious is commendable, but it is far more so to be godly among the ungodly.

YOU want an interest, dear reader, in Christ, more than you want your daily food. The Bible says so.

MAN of the world, look to Christ.

YOU have no excuse, sinner; you have time while reading this to give God your heart.

UNLAWFUL gain, lying, committing adultery, drunkenness, &c., are crimes that bring terror to the soul in the dying hour. Avoid, pass by; think on your latter end.

PART OF THE XXXVIITH PSALM.

“I HAVE seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

“Yet he passed away, and lo, he was not; yea, I sought him but he could not be found.”

IF a proud look is an abomination to the Lord, what must a proud heart be.

GOD *urges* upon men his lessons of heavenly wisdom in so many ways, that none can remain ignorant of them but those who obstinately refuse to hear.

THE architect of a celebrated monument of antiquity cut his own name in the solid marble, while that of the Prince, under whose auspices it was built,

was engraved in the cement with which the surface was covered. Ages afterward, when the cement had crumbled to pieces, and the memory of the Prince had vanished, the name of the noble mechanic was read by thousands who admired the lasting monument of his skill. So with our actions. While those which the world calls splendid shall soon be blotted from the memory, the self-denying, unobtrusive deeds of humble piety shall be had in everlasting remembrance. The frost and storms of time may obliterate the record of earthly greatness, but they who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.

READ the fourth chapter of Malachi.

HEART-BREATHINGS.

Dedicatory.

ADORABLE Saviour, when we have gone hence to be with Thee, may these our heart-felt petitions prove a precious legacy to those we love, an evidence to them of Thy convicting, converting, sanctifying and saving grace ; a comfort and a joy for ever, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Sacred Devotion.

WE beseech Thee, Good Father, to endue us plenteously with heavenly gifts, that our prayers may not be cold and heartless, but rather as a glowing flame, rising from the fires of sacred devotion and kindled in the soul by the breath of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ejaculations on various Occasions.

[Not to be used to the exclusion of regular prayer.]

On Awakening.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul—The good Shepherd who watches while thou sleepest.

Pardon, Lord, the idle and sinful thoughts of the night; and so purify me, that even the unconscious motives of my mind may be void of offence.

Lord, grant that I may awaken from the night of the grave to the day of Thy glory.

Thou that givest light and strength to the stars to run their appointed journey, give me Thy light and Thy strength to guide and aid me in the trials and duties of this day. For Christ's sake. Amen.

On Going Out.

Lord, be with me throughout this day. Guard me from sin. Protect me from injury and evil. Be with my family in mercy—aid me in the performance of my duties. For Christ's sake. Amen.

When engaging in any Work.

Aid and bless me, O Lord. Let all that I do conform to Thy will, and redound to Thy glory. Amen.

When Conscious of having Sinned.

Merciful Father, blot out my transgressions. Have mercy upon me a miserable sinner. Pardon me and uplift me from sin. For our dear Saviour's sake. Amen.

When Disengaged.

O God, let my life and my leisure be filled with thoughts of Thee. I bless Thee that I live, that I think, that I pray; and for Thy innumerable mercies. Grant me Thy grace and dedicate me to Thy glory. Amen.

At the sight of Affliction.

Lord of mercy comfort and relieve my suffering friends. Forgive their sins, heal their infirmities, and make them happy in a saving knowledge of Thee. Amen.

Passing the abode of the Dead.

Thou, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, sanctify this visitation and warning to me and to the kindred and friends of the departed; assuage their sorrows, and grant them and me the life that knows no death. Amen.

When Tempted.

Father in heaven, remove this temptation far from me, if it be Thy will; or if the trial be mine, be mine also the grace and strength which Thou alone canst give to shield me from evil, now and evermore. For Christ's sake. Amen.

When Wronged.

Forgive, O Lord, the wrong that has been done me. Turn the hearts of my enemies, and above all, so sanctify me with Thy grace, that

I may sincerely and heartily forgive and love, and do good to all men. Amen.

When Happy.

Blessed be Thy name, my Father and my God. Make my heart thankful to Thee for this hour, and may no happiness here make me forget *that* only true happiness which awaits the just made perfect. Amen.

When Afflicted.

Let this sorrow pass from me, if it be Thy will; if not, blessed be Thy name: and may Thy every dispensation draw me unto Thee with a purer faith and a more humble and fervent gratitude. Amen.

At the sight of Sin.

Oh Thou, ever blessed, who hast died to save sinners, awaken the unconverted to a sense of their transgressions; may they repent, be saved, and added to the millions who rejoice in Thy mercies. Save me, O Lord, from their sins and from all sin. Make me humble and watchful with my trust in Thee only, for I am of

sinner the chief, and without Thee I am lost. I apply to Thee for forgiveness. Save Lord, save the purchase of Thy blood. Amen.

When meeting a Relative or Friend.

Bless them, O Lord, sanctify and save them. Grant them Thy peace here, and make them partakers of Thy glory hereafter. Amen.

When about to Sleep.

Again, and ever, O God, I thank and bless Thee. May my last thoughts this night be in gratitude to Thee. Forgive my sins. Impart to me Thy Spirit. Grant me a guarded and healthful sleep; and, when I awaken, may it be to bless and praise Thee. Amen.

Thanks for Blessings.

“ We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

ALMIGHTY God we bless Thee for our creation, for although born in sin and cradled in innocent ignorance, we have awoke to a new birth in righteousness, even by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit.

We bless Thee, for our preservation—preserved from plague and pestilence, from the fiery demon and the midnight assassin, from bankruptcy and ruin in our business relations, from affliction and penury in our family circle, from discord and confusion in the church, from the foreign foe and domestic enemy in our national affairs—blessed with peace and plenty. We bless Thee for all the blessings of this life, for food and raiment, for an open Bible and an evangelical ministry, for Thy sanctuary and its

holy ordinances, for this means of grace and for the hope of glory—but before all and in all for Thine inestimable love in our redemption here and salvation hereafter by our Lord Jesus Christ, whom Thou didst send to die an ignominious death on Calvary for our sins, and bless with a glorious resurrection for our justification. Glory be to Thy holy name. Amen.

Contrition, Supplication, Faith and Thanksgiving.

WITH contrite hearts, conscious of our inability to do Contrition.
aright ; aware of our neglect to observe Thy will in all things ; with repeated and sinful deviations from Thy laws of righteousness ; erring continually, giving way to those irregularities of deportment which profit not, but condemn us ; disobedient and unfaithful stewards of Thy household ; self-reliant, presumptuous, coveting, ignorant, debased, without gratitude, or adoring respect ; building upon shadows of our own conceits ; taking unto ourselves merit which alone belongs to Thee ; setting ourselves in high places made from our own imaginings, temples of air which have no real existence ; assuming Pharisaical goodness ; given to uncharitableness toward our brethren ;

discarding Thy will in many things, and but partially obeying Thy commandments ; of ourselves poor, vile, miserable sinners, deserving Thy just wrath and indignation, and utterly devoid of every qualification of goodness, except as coming from Thy bountiful hand, we bow down in humble submission before Thee,

our kind and indulgent Parent, to
Supplication. supplicate Thy compassionate pity

upon our infirmities, and to beseech that out of the abundance of Thy love Thou wouldst grant unto us the riches of Thy grace.

In these our quiet moments, may we resolve to regard not the interests of time and sense, but rather the good of our souls in preparation for eternity. May we appreciate this means of grace, and fully realize that these moments employed in prayer are not spent in vain ; that this is to us a rich treasure, better by far than gold or rubies ; that through prayer we are benefited and improved. May we not only knock at the door of mercy, but await Thy coming with rich blessings to assuage every grief, and to give us comfort in the Holy Ghost. We know full well that we cannot gain from

this world a satisfying good, we therefore pray Thee to incline us unto that wisdom which looks to God for all blessedness. May we, good Lord, be neither negligent of our closet or public duties, whether in meditation, self-examination, reading the Holy Scriptures, praise or prayer; may we look to Thee as the pure fountain from whence all wisdom and godliness flows; to insure a closer walk with God, give us regularity and alacrity in performing every required duty; may we not decline in spiritual health, but become robust men and women in holy faith, that we may secure Thy favor here, and insure our lives for heaven. Give unto us a spirit of prayer, self-denial, vigilance, running, wrestling and fighting for Thy kingdom; in our associations with those who love not God, save us from contamination; bestow upon us such safeguards of protection, as that we shall withstand the power of the enemy and triumph over every obstacle. Make us just towards our fellow men, honest and upright, despising deceit and abominating falsehood, shunning evil of every kind, and running swiftly towards divine perfection; to this end

may we be blessed with wholesome, trust-
 ing, believing, sanctifying faith in
 faith. Thy covenanted promises, realizing

through a spiritual vision, that Thou
 dost hear and answer prayer, that the Holy
 Spirit has an indwelling in our souls, that
 through this medium we have been wedded to
 Christ, our adorable Saviour. Thy precious
 promises are to our souls and bodies vouch-
 safed in consolation and comfort; we believe
 that Thou wilt grant to us all good things; we
 rely upon Thy reconciling words of grace and
 glory, and we believe they will be fulfilled to
 our salvation; we believe that we shall receive
 manifold blessings in this world, and in the
 world to come life everlasting. We receive rich
 outpourings of love when we apply for bless-
 ings; our petitions and addresses reach Thine
 ear, and Thy right hand is extended to relieve;
 surely Thy goodness and loving-kindness is
 sufficient for every day and every trial! Give
 us faith to lay hold of Thine inestimable
 promises. Lord we believe, help
 Thanksgiving. Thou our unbelief! We therefore
 with praises and thanksgiving join

with Thy heavenly hosts in ascribing glory, honor, praise and power to the God that has loved us, to the Saviour who has redeemed us, to the Holy Spirit which comforts us. To the Triune God we worship, to Him only belongs all the glory. With angels and archangels, with saints redeemed and just men made perfect, with our hearts' truest and fullest adoration, we give Thee unfeigned thanks for these high and holy privileges and blessings. Amen.

Adoration, Confession and Gratitude.

“Light is sown for the righteous, and joyful gladness for the upright in heart.”

WE magnify and adore Thy holy name, our Supreme Ruler, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for Thy condescending goodness in granting to us, poor worms of the dust, life, health and happiness ; that although deserving Thy righteous indignation, (in consideration especially of our repeated transgressions,) we are the recipients of manifold blessings continually. Blessed with comforts far beyond our deserts, spared the many afflictions incident to human nature, are we not the special objects of Thy love, and shall we not anew resolve for Thee to live, and in Thy service to depart this life in peace? Are we, good Lord, thoroughly devoting ourselves to Thy will, are we consecrating our time and

our talents in advancing the interests of Thy kingdom ; are we really and truly living in Christ and for Christ? Try us, O God, by the standard of Thy laws, and wherein we are found wanting, grant unto us greater grace, that we may be the better able to discharge the duties devolving upon us. For instruction and guidance we look to Thee, as of ourselves we are both ignorant and blind, incapacitated for every duty, full of imperfections ; grant to us, heavenly Father, we most sincerely beseech Thee, knowledge in good things, wisdom from on high, zeal and understanding, that we may show forth Thy righteousness through the entire journey of life's pilgrimage, doing good and receiving good, always desiring an increase of Thy love, and ever abounding in good works.

The angelic choir who chant Thy praises in adoring thanksgivings have but partial blessings as compared with Thy loving-kindness to us ; have we not been, good Lord, the special objects of Thy grace and mercy through all of life's stormy pathway ; when sin abounded without a Saviour, and wickedness reigned

supremely triumphant, didst Thou not remember us in mercy rather than visit us in justice, in sending Thine only and best beloved Son, to make a propitiatory sacrifice for our salvation? Of ourselves condemned already, blind to the truth of happiness, depraved outcasts, unworthy Thy countenance and deserving everlasting punishment, a new and living way was vouchsafed to us whereby we could cast away the works of darkness, and take upon us the true, holy and precious assurance, that in faith, believing, and good works following us, Christ Jesus our Brother, Thine adorable Son, assumes our transgressions, and we are made to rejoice with exceeding joy. Let Thy grace abound in our hearts more abundantly, that we may contribute to the good of our fellows, become more worthy Thy service, more devoted to good works, and finally receive Thine approving recognition amongst Thy saints in glory everlasting.

We mourn over our ignorance and incompetency to fulfil aright the responsible duties imposed upon us in our family relations; all wisdom and power comes from Thine inex-

haustible fountain of knowledge; to Thee, then, we lift up our hearts, in sincere and anxious solicitude for an increase of wisdom, not such as the world gives, but exceedingly better—that which will profit us beyond the grave and fit us here for every word and work; may we be so taught by the Author of all wisdom, that we may be enabled to bring these, our darlings, to the cross of Christ right early in life, and manifest to all around us that we are true followers of the meek and lowly Lamb; convict the careless, awaken the lukewarm, build up the believer, and save us all with an everlasting salvation, we beg for Christ's sake. Amen.



“The will of God is the perfection of all wisdom.”

THE power is Thine, O Lord, the glory is Thine, to Thee belongs all wisdom, might, and majesty; glorious Saviour, Thou art our God and our Guide, ever present, always kind, ever watchful; an exceedingly

patient Master, mindful of Thy children ; with pity for our infirmities ; Thou art our help in time of need ; to Thee we can apply for relief from sorrow ; in Thee we can find every comfort ; through Thee we have a lively hope of a blessed hereafter. How can we sufficiently praise and glorify Thy holy name, O blessed Redeemer, for Thy goodness and loving-kindness, which has followed us all the days of our life ? We approach Thee this morning, in humble reliance upon Thy goodness, to plead for the outpouring of Thy Holy Spirit ; grant us the full measure of Thy blessings ; give unto us the realization of our true acceptance with Thee, that we may the more abundantly magnify and adore Thy condescending goodness, and be more thoroughly sanctified in that holy faith which takes hold of the precious promises. “There is a balm in Gilead and a physician there,” one who is omnipresent, one who can heal the loathsomeness of sin, one who can purify uncleanness, one who can take from death its sting and who can insure the Christian’s victory ; surely we can rejoice and offer up hearty thanks for the knowledge of the

fact, that we can be accepted of him, and made heirs of eternal happiness. Teach us Almighty Father to follow continually the good pilgrim's road that leads to the city of our God.

Around the family circle, with Thine eyes beholding our necessities, and a stretched out arm to relieve our wants, enable us to lay hold of Thy promises and participate in their blessings ; make us " a holy people, zealous of good works ;" may our example be such as to inspire in our children a love of Thee, and influence them, as they grow in years, to increase in divine knowledge ; bless with Thy continual presence our entire household ; may we be " a household of faith and a family of prayer ;" in all the connections of life, whether of family or friends, may we give evidence, " by an upright walk and chaste conversation, that we have been with God and learned of Him ;" forgive us, O Lord, for whatever of wrong we are guilty towards others ; grant that we may " live in peace and good-will with all men ;" constrain the hearts of those who would harm us to look with kindness rather than anger upon our motives ; bring all into Thy fold, that

we may be of one heart and one mind to love and serve the Lord. Bless Thy holy ordinances to our good ; may we observe them with that outward promptness that shall testify of the indwelling of the love of Christ, and especially may we be benefited by the Gospel of Christ as given us by divine inspiration. Incline our hearts to fulfil each and every charge devolving upon us in our duty to our God and His creation, that we may go forth in joy and delight in adding to the comfort of the bodies and souls of those around us. We would not forget, good Lord, to pray for a revival of Thy work ; extend Thy Gospel to the uttermost ends of the earth ; may “the sea make a noise and be glad” that all have sought and found atonement through Thy blood ; may every household become a heaven on earth, so that we shall see Thee come again in Thy transcendent glory to call Thy saints from groveling in the dust to glorious immortality, from pain and sorrow to joy eternal, from cares to rest, from temptation to everlasting security, from the perplexities of this world to the never ending happiness of a home in heaven, and then as

now will we ascribe all honor, power and glory to that beloved Saviour, "who died for our sins and rose again for our justification." Amen.



"Pray without ceasing." 1 *Thess.* v. 17.

WITH a grateful sense of duty, O Lord, and with full knowledge of our unworthiness, we approach Thy mercy-seat this morning to thank Thee for Thy preserving care which has protected us during the past night. How good Thou hast been to us, blessed Saviour, in Thus shielding us from harm, and granting us a continuance of Thy protection. "Make us truly humble and thankful for these and every other blessing we receive at Thy hands." May we be preserved from harm during the ensuing day, and as we go out into the busy world, there to mix with sinful beings, grant us Thy continual presence, that we may watch and pray lest we enter into temptation; we can do nothing of ourselves, but through

Thy intercession we can be made invulnerable to the shafts of the enemy. O Lord, we beseech Thee to give us faith and good works that we may become more and more strengthened in every good resolve. We thank Thee, good Lord, that Thou hast inclined our hearts to serve Thee ; perfect, we beseech Thee, the good that is within us, until we shall fully realize the true and living way, and be abundantly blessed, and that continually, with the presence of the Lord.

We feel a great responsibility, precious Saviour, in bringing up those dear ones which Thou hast given us ; enable us so to live that they, "seeing our good works, may glorify our Father which is in heaven ;" "endue us plenteously with Thy Holy Spirit," that our children may find with us a home which is a nursery for heaven ; incline their hearts to that glorified Saviour who has said : "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven ;" grant, O Lord, that by our advice and example they may learn from us, as we learn of Thee, that true happiness is alone to be found in the religion

of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ ; to this end, O holy Saviour, forbid that we should ever by word, deed or action do ought that may be a stumbling-block in the way of leading them to the pure fountain of all joy ; bless, we beseech Thee, all who are connected with us by the ties of nature ; incline the hearts of those who profess Thy name to a “ closer walk with God ;” bless them abundantly with all good ; shield them from all harm ; comfort them in affliction ; and may we all realize that our light afflictions are but blessings in disguise, teaching us of our unfaithfulness, and causing us to resolve anew to live nearer the protecting side of our blessed Saviour. Incline the hearts of those who know Thee not to retrospect their unprofitable lives ; to see the sinfulness of sin ; to feel how vain, fleeting and unsubstantial are the pleasures of this world, when not sanctioned by the presence of the Source of all real happiness ; convict, convert, sanctify and save them, we implore Thee. We believe in the efficacy of prayer, good Lord ; we know we shall not plead in vain ; we have Thy promises ; we know by faith Thou dost hear

and answer prayer ; when our hearts are troubled, O Lord, we apply to Thee for that relief which Thou alone canst vouchsafe ; we believe Thou wilt grant our supplications, and therefore we approach Thee in faith, believing ; hear us, then, O Lord, in behalf of those for whom we pray ; constrain their hearts to seek Thy favor ; turn them, we beseech Thee, from the error of their ways ; lead them to the cross of Christ ; bring them into Thy fold, that they may adorn the family of the Lord ; influence them, O Lord, we pray Thee, to receive into their hearts Thy Holy Spirit ; and if it is Thy will, O Lord, grant that they may be so drawn to love Thee, that forgetting the things that are past, they may live in peace and happiness here, and finally reach that harbor where storms never assail, where Christ reigns, where sorrow and sighing for ever flee away. Grant our petitions, heavenly Father, and save us for Christ's sake. Amen.

“Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.”

SUPREME great and wonderful in all things art Thou, O Lord God of hosts; to Thee we owe our creation, preservation and every blessing of life, but infinitely above and beyond all, we are indebted for Thy loving mercy manifested towards us in our redemption, by sending Thine only Son, Christ Jesus, to suffer and die, that we guilty and lost sinners might have a way opened up, a true and living way, whereby we can be saved; we give Thee all the glory, good Lord; having the deepest sense of our own unworthiness, we would be most excellent and honorable in Thy sight, O God, and now acknowledge Thy greatness and goodness, in all things beseeching Thee to visit us not according to our deserts, but in the abundance of Thy condescending love and mercy. We know that with Thy presence and favor we can overcome all obstructions in the way of advancement in divine life; inspire us with a love of truth and goodness; may we be devoted to humanity, have respect and

reverence for Thy ordinances, and worship Thee in Thy holiness always ; may our souls accord with Thy Holy Spirit in all things, so that we may receive Thine approving smiles, and be found ever on the Lord's side ; we are conscious of the offences we daily commit, and are aware of the great benefits we receive at Thy hands ; give us grace to shun the one, and thankful hearts to appreciate the other ; with sins of great magnitude already committed, we, the vilest of the vile, come to Thee, realizing that Thou wilt have mercy on us and pardon us for Thy Son's sake. The comfortable assurances of Thy Holy Word are to us consolation and relief amidst life's perplexities ; when annoyed, vexed and dismayed by surrounding circumstances, we find comfort from Thy presence and a balm for every wound ; O, make us truly humble and devoutly thankful for Thy watchful care over us, and may we here dedicate our entire being to Thee, that thus being made Thy faithful servants on this earth, we may become heirs with God and joint heirs with Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, in Thy kingdom on high. Lead our children into the

green pastures of godliness ; incline their tender hearts toward Thy service ; teach their prattling tongues to lisp Thy praises ; receive them into Thy family by adoption and free grace, and of Thy great mercy keep them under Thy guardian care, so that they may adorn Thy kingdom here and reach Thy holy habitation in the heavens. Have mercy upon our connections that know not God ; pity their unbelief ; awaken their slumbering souls ; O may they cast off the powers of darkness and take upon themselves the glorious light that radiates the Christian's path, and reflects Thy holy image all around ; we would agonize, O Lord, in their behalf ; hear our prayers of supplication for their conversion, and constrain them, we beseech Thee, to seek and find Thee, the only true and living God.

O, Lamb of God, renew within us who profess Thy name, a greater desire to live after Thy commandments. "To fear God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man ;" may we come fully up to Thy requirements, thus securing for ourselves great blessings, and throwing around us such healthy influences as

shall cause sinners to fall in with the offered terms of mercy ; be with us in the various associations and duties of life ; go with us, as we mix with the gay and thoughtless ; watch over us, good Lord, that we be not enticed to do evil ; dwell with us in the Sabbath-school and Sanctuary ; incline our hearts to get good and do good, and in all things order our actions, conform our words, influence our thoughts as shall be most acceptable to Thee, so that we may prove a blessing to our generation, and honor and glorify Thy holy name ever, world without end. Amen.



“With the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.”

OUR Father and our God, we implore a continuation of those blessings which have been manifold since our being.

We can ask no good thing of our own merits, for we are poor, miserable sinners, deserving Thy wrath continually, yet “ thanks

be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," by His agonizing suffering and ignominious death, we are vouchsafed the assurance, that through faith we may become the recipients of much good here and the participators of everlasting joy hereafter ! Oh ! what a sublime, elevating thought, that through Christ we can attain to good works in this vile body, and have a resurrection in a spiritual body to join just men made perfect, our sainted loved ones, and best of all our beloved Redeemer, through whose intercession we are alone made thus happy ; God be praised for His condescending goodness in thus caring and providing for us, miserable sinners !

Grant, O Lord, that we may continually aspire to and attain those blessings which we can enjoy through Thy mediatorial goodness ; enable us to go onward and upward towards the perfection of righteousness ; help us in every good word and work ; give us the ability to ask of Thee all things aright ; give us the faith to fully believe in Thy precious promises ; make us, O Lord, " Israelites indeed in whom there is no guile," that whether in business life,

in social life, around the family fireside, in the church, or in the state, we may show to those around us, "that we have been with Christ and learned of Him." Oh, forbid that we should be a stumbling-block in the way of others, and thereby be accessory to their damnation; save us, O Lord, save us from this sin; be our God and our Guide, then shall we abide continually under Thy shadow, and fear no evil.

We would especially plead for the out-pouring of Thy Holy Spirit on the church; build up there, O Lord a congregation of true disciples, evangelical Christians, whose good works shall be read and known of all men; sanctify the zealous efforts of the ministers, that they may rejoice with exceeding joy, in realizing that their ministry is not in vain; grant to them, Almighty God, the evidence of the efficacy of their good counsel by the ingathering of precious souls into the fold of Christ, such as shall be everlastingly saved.

Bless, O heavenly Father, the ordinances of the church to the good of our souls; remember the poor and the needy, the sick and the suffering, the fatherless and the widow;

give us the heart and the will to endeavor to alleviate the pains of suffering humanity; endue us with power and wisdom, that we may be prominent and useful in all that appertains to the good of Thy church and the relief of mankind.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the prosperity we enjoy; for the means of grace at our command; for the gracious revival of Thy work in our midst, but far above and beyond all, for the glorious prospect of a happy hereafter; make us truly humble and thankful for these and all other blessings, for Christ's sake. Amen.



"O Lord, our Governor, how excellent is Thy name in the world."

WE thank Thee, O precious Saviour, that justification is by faith in Jesus, that salvation is secured to us through Thy great atonement, that everlasting happiness hereafter is promised for our enjoyment, if we but cast our all at Thy feet; strengthen our good re-

solves by additions of grace ; give us increased knowledge of our duties and stronger desires to fulfil them ; perfect within us, O Lord, such good works, as that we may have that unwavering faith which dispels fear and makes us to see always rather the glories than the terrors of Thy laws ; we would, O heavenly Father, rejoice continually in Thy mercies ; save, Oh save us from Thy judgments, but if in Thy good pleasure Thy righteous corrections should be visited upon us, give us grace sufficient for every trial, and may such visitations teach us the more especially of our own unworthiness and the necessity of a “ closer walk with God.” As the past shadows forth to our vision Thy preserving mercies, as the present testifies of Thy indulgent kindness, and as the future gives us hope of the realization of Thy precious promises, we thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast thus far blest us with sunshine, and we have an abiding faith in the belief that Thou wilt in future not frown with anger, but smile with blessings upon our heads ; thus convinced, we here in humble thanks yield our all to Thy service, as our dearest

Companion, our Counsellor, our King, our Saviour. Number us, O Lord, among Thy people; receive us, O Lord, into Thy family; register our names, adored Redeemer, in Thy book of remembrance; keep us faithful in every duty; give us the energy and the will to work in Thy vineyard; make us true Israelites; give us grace and glory, so that under every circumstance we may show forth Thy glory to a wicked and sinful world; may our ambition urge us to attain to higher and yet higher knowledge of godliness; may our humility humble us to the dust in Thy presence; may our constant desires and most fervent prayers be to become more and more like unto Thee, our Holy Saviour.

Thou knowest, O Lord, how we are tempted by the Adversary of our souls, "Who goeth about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." We are continually liable to become entangled in his clutches. Oh, grant that we may overcome every besetting sin, that having Christ Jesus as our constant, loving and protecting companion, the Enemy's darts will fall harmless at our feet.

We are surrounded, good Lord, with many comforts in life which Thou hast given us. In our home we are blessed with health, food and raiment; our dear children are spared to us in Thy goodness. In our business life we are saved from bankruptcy; our associations are pleasant and beneficial. In social life we are blessed with many kind and sincere friends. Innumerable are our blessings, and they all come from Thy bountiful hand. Are we sufficiently thankful, O Lord, for these great blessings? Search our hearts, and wherein we come short in giving Thee all the glory, O, eradicate such neglect, and implant thoroughly proper acknowledgements for these great blessings. In Thy good time and wisdom turn the hearts of those around us to Thy love and service; may the comfortable assurance of Thy continual presence be with those who profess Thy name, and that they may become the better fitted for Thy service, increase Thy holy religion in their hearts. Hear our prayers for "all sorts and conditions of men," and let Thy truth run and be glorified, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous; and His ears are open unto their prayers."

WITH humility and reverence, Almighty God, we again approach Thy presence, to offer to Thee in godly sincerity (as is our bounden duty) our unfeigned and grateful thanks for Thy watchful care and fatherly protection, exercised towards us during another night. We would most reverentially claim through the merits of Thy precious blood a full and free realization of Christ within us, the hope of glory, and offer to Thee (as is most justly due) all the glory of our salvation. Without Thee, our glorified Redeemer, life is but a fleeting show, shadows that depart, clouds that disperse with the winds; but if in Thy keeping, "joy cometh with the morning," and blessings continue throughout the day. We go forth into the busy world, and ordinary cares and vexations become as trifles, reverses but annoy for the moment; we glide onward and upward with the smooth, unruffled tide of Thy favor, and again repair to the bosom of our families, happy and content. Truly, O

Lord, "Thy ways are ways of pleasantness!" If in the wisdom of Thy providence, Thou shouldst spare to us our dear children, O, may they, good Lord, become as shining lights in their day and generation; receive them, O Father, as Thy adopted children; teach us that we may the better instruct them in true godliness, so that parents and children may prove an honor to Thee, a joyous satisfaction to each other, and finally become shining lights to gem Thy diadem in glory. In those ties which unite us to others by nature and marriage-vows, we feel especially resting upon us a weighty responsibility; grant, heavenly Father, that we may faithfully, fully and freely discharge our duty towards our entire connection; if by advice or admonition, help us, good Lord; if by example, may the glorious radiance of pure and undefiled religion be ever unveiled, so that we may show forth by an upright walk and chaste conversation that Christ Jesus, the Lord, reigns supreme with us. Our prayers ascend for those whose time, talents, grace, accomplishments, and desires find unison only with worldly pleasures; whose days and nights are

absorbed in schemes and anticipations of the world's enjoyments, without one thought of Thee ; Oh teach them, good Lord, that religion is true happiness ; that sinful pleasures are short-lived ; that true pleasures are sweetened and rendered transcendently enjoyable, when accompanied with Thy presence. The conscience void of offence gives repose and comfort, whilst the countenance testifies that Thou art in the midst to bless. Glory be to Thee, O Lord God of Israel, that these ideas have become with us veritable facts, to the exclusion of evil doings, and the blessing of our every hour. Bless, O Lord, all the inhabitants of the earth ; aid those who disseminate and spread broad-cast the teachings of the Gospel ; gather into Thy fold on this earth many who shall enter into Thy kingdom in heaven ; revive Thy work on the land and the sea ; let the uttermost parts of the earth hear of Thy goodness and loving-kindness ; make those who profess Thy name, teachers of men in those things that appertain to their everlasting salvation ; give us to feel always that Thou art with us, and though legions be against us, hav-

ing right, with God upon our side, we cannot fear evil ; abundantly reward our feeble efforts to advance Thy glory ; give us to live in peace and happiness with all men ; endue us with divine wisdom and Thy heavenly Spirit, so that whether amidst the troubles of adversity or joys of prosperity, in sunshine or shade, in mourning or glee, Thy approving smiles and heavenly voice, (by a well-grounded faith,) will cheer us upward towards Thy heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, where we will ascribe everlasting praises to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, throughout the countless ages of eternity. Amen.



“ Like as the hart panteth for the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after Thee, O God.”

OMNIPOTENT Jehovah, God the Father Almighty, our Creator, Preserver and gracious Benefactor, in deepest humiliation and self-abasement we approach Thine awful but glorious presence, and most devoutly pray Thee

to awaken us really to a sense of Thy unutterable and inconceivable glories. Sinful worms of the dust, full of impurity, we can scarcely presume to approach Thy majestic presence to ask a renewal of Thy covenant promises to us, yet, through the intercession of Thy well-beloved Son, our adorable Redeemer, Thou wilt condescend to hear and answer our petitions. With shame and contrition we acknowledge our many transgressions; our degenerate natures, in repeated and aggravated instances, have rebelled against Thee, our Lord and Master, and we are continually wandering from the true and living way. Grant to us, good Lord, as we are here bowed down in humble reliance, a fixed purpose of heart to devote our time, energies, talents, and all that we have and are to Thy service; may we consecrate ourselves in every word and work unquestionably to Thine approval, so that we shall be the happier here and transcendently happy hereafter. We have many ties in heaven, good Lord, of friends and relatives, yet we have no attachment to compare with that of being with Thee, our Father and elder Brother, our beloved

Saviour, who in our behalf came on earth to be reviled, suffered an agonizing death for our sins, and rose again for our justification. Poor worms of the dust, as we are, how insignificant we feel in Thy presence ; how utterly destitute of every personal qualification or merit ; how forlorn and cast away but for Thy loving intercession in our behalf ; we, therefore, in humble thanks, praise Thy holy name for every comfort and every joy. We would yield Thee our heart's adoration for that goodness and loving-kindness with which Thou hast blessed us ; we would be in deed and in truth the humble followers of the meek and lowly Lamb. Oh, grant to us such good works that we may be the more abundantly blest in constraining sinners to turn in with the offered terms of mercy. What a holy satisfaction to be the instrument in Thy hands of converting a soul ! What a multitude of deviations will be atoned in our behalf ! What a gem in Thy crown in glory ! And best of all, we shall thus partially pay our obligations to that good Saviour who has redeemed us with His most precious blood, and

made us heirs and joint heirs with Him in the glories of His kingdom.

Our situation in life brings us constantly in contact with sin and wickedness ; as we mix with the world, subject to its temptations, dissipations and follies, its cares, perplexities, annoyances and labor, we may temporarily forget our duty to our God. O grant, blessed Jesus, the presence of Thy guardian angels, that we may overcome every temptation and the sins that so easily beset us, and run with patience the race set before us ; giving assurance continually that Thou art our Ark of Safety, that though the enemy may abound all around us, the radiance of Thy saving presence illuminates our path, and Thy Holy Spirit directs our course, in the true Christian road that leads to glory ; then will others, seeing our good works, glorify Thee, our Omnipresent Saviour, and be influenced to seek and find the pearl of great price. If it is Thy good pleasure, give us grace and give us glory ; give us the true and living faith to believe that trusting in Thee we need not fear evil, though it threaten us on every side. Thy grace is sufficient for

every trial; Thy presence with us, and we will not fear an army of foes, for by Thee and through Thy assistance we are made strong to withstand the enemy without and our natural sinfulness within. Hear our weak and imperfect supplications, and finally gather us with Thy children into the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," all of which we ask for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.



"The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy; O teach me Thy statutes."

FATHER of all mercies, Dispenser of every comfort, Disposer of our beings, we yield Thee unceasing praise and our heart's adoration, that Thou art the Guardian Angel who gives sleep to our eyelids and repose to our slumbers; protecting our homes from the fiery demon and the midnight robber; preserving us in every way from the foe without or harm within; permitting us to awaken to another morning with our faculties unimpaired, our health improved, and best of all, with an

increased desire to more worthily walk in the Christian's path that leads to life eternal. May we, good Lord, through the ensuing day make much progress in divine things, and as we journey through the world and its dangers, this day and all the days of our lives, may we lean upon Thine arm for help, and look upon Thy countenance for encouragement. With grace in our hearts, prayer on our lips, and abiding faith in Thy protection, the rough places will be made smooth, and God, even our own God, will be a security and a blessing. We would, from the deepest recesses of our hearts, ask Thee, O Lord, to save us from the tongue of slander, (as we prize a good reputation as among Thy choicest blessings and better than rubies;) oh, forbid that we should be assailed to our injury by this scourge of falsity; if Thy will, however, that we should be thus tortured, may we, heavenly Father, whether through good or evil report, be content to say, "Thy will be done" without murmuring; give unto us, indulgent Parent, such charity for the faults of others that we shall be especially guarded in our own words, that we may not

condemn unjustly ; incline us to reprove with gentleness, that we may thereby give evidence that love rather than anger is the motive-power ; grant us to accomplish the work Thou hast given us to do ; may we, O Lord, live in peace and charity with all men, so that with a good conscience, (of Thine approving,) we shall the rather show forth to the unconverted the joys, than the sorrows of life, giving evidence of the efficacy of Thy saving grace that happiness existence, and bids sighing and mourning to for ever flee away.

O most adorable Father, as Thy children, instruct us aright that we may know how to act and how the better to merit Thine approbation, that Thou mayest remove from us our great troubles. Our children, blessed Saviour, are to us a well-spring of pleasure ; oh protect them in Thy great goodness ; shield them from the snares and temptations of this world ; may they right early seek and find Thee, to the comfort of their souls and the joy and prosperity of their lives ; enable us each and all so to live that when this transitory existence shall

end, we shall live for ever in Thy kingdom, for Christ's sake. Amen.



"The day is Thine, and the night is Thine; Thou hast prepared the light and the sun."

HEAVENLY Father we are indeed Thine "by adoption and free grace;" make us more thoroughly Thine in all things, and keep us Thine for ever. Our dependence rests entirely upon Thy condescending goodness, for of ourselves we cannot do a good act nor speak a good word, but Thou art an Omnipresent and Omniscient Father—"more willing to give than we are to receive," and granting to us, Thy unworthy creatures, blessings innumerable, yea, "every good and perfect gift." Constrain us, then, O Lord, to more fully dedicate our all to Thee, "in whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning," and so far as consistent with Thy will concerning us, sanctify our souls without reserve to Thy service in all things; wherein through ignorance or desire,

we stray from Thy fold, bring us back again, good Lord, and forbid that we should again leave Thy favor; may we continually abide in Thy presence and live after Thy commandments; to this end we beseech Thee that we may persevere in prayer and supplication to the advancement of good and the avoidance of evil, that being with Thee always we shall be the more and more likened unto Thee, and enabled thereby to attain to those joys on earth that will the better adapt us to the glories of heaven. As disease and trouble is abroad in the land, we pray Thee, Holy Saviour, to protect us from the pestilence, or else prepare us thoroughly to wrestle with its pain, fully assured under all conditions, that Thy afflictions are but warnings that we may the better be prepared for Thy will concerning us. Thou art a just and merciful Saviour, save us then, O Lord, if Thy will, from the terrible ravages of this pestilence; and whilst the thunderings of the terrors of Thy laws are warning the world of its wickedness, may this visitation constrain the hearts of the people to find comfort and consolation, a safe refuge and defence in Jesus

Christ and Him crucified, so that mourning may be turned into rejoicing, and Thy name glorified to the ends of the earth. Believing that Thou art now present to hear our weak and imperfect supplications, we plead for our dear children: may they be preserved under Thy protection; may they be made participators in divine things; may they increase in the knowledge of godliness as they grow in years; make them, O Lord, true disciples of Thy church, that they may realize throughout life that through Thee only can they enjoy real happiness. Bless our friends and relations; may our kindred, whether absent from us or in our midst, be instructed and preserved by Thy great goodness. If serving Thee, the true and living God, may they be built up in Thy most holy faith; if wanderers, may their eyes be directed to the "Star in the East," that their feet may be impelled to run out after Thy blessings; bring them, good Lord, into Thy fold, that they may realize that where Thou art there they would be also. Hear our prayers, O Lord, save us with the redeemed, we beg for Christ's sake. Amen.

"I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined unto me and heard my calling."

WE approach the Fountain of all happiness this morning, realizing our own unworthiness, conscious of our short-comings, and fully aware that we can offer no plea, through any merit of our own, in extenuation of our own sinfulness; poor, weak, miserable sinners, we do not deserve the slightest recognition from Thee, yet, O precious Saviour, we can rely on Thy promises, and through Thy intercession be made to rejoice that we have been with Christ and learned of Him. We thank Thee, good Lord, for the simpleness of prayer, for the efficacy of prayer, for that divine joy and comfort imparted through prayer, but above all, that we are thus privileged to converse with Thee, our adorable Redeemer, and receive that wisdom and comfort of which the world knows nothing. Give us faith to believe continually in Thy precious promises, that we may the more abundantly realize Thy goodness towards us, and evidence to others the truthfulness of our profession, that

they, "seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in heaven." We would implore Thy presence with us, that we may be instant, in season and out of season, in glorifying Thy holy name, thereby influencing those around us to good works. We would ask Thy special blessing, glorified Redeemer, upon our beloved family; save them from evil, shield them from harm; protect them under the shadow of Thy wings, that we may be a "household of faith and a family of prayer;" give us the ability to bring up our children in the "fear and admonition of the Lord," by precept and example; may they learn of us as we learn of Christ, so that with us they may live and die, an honor and a blessing to all; prepare the hearts of our darlings that they may right early seek the Lord and find Him to the joy and comfort of their souls. Bless those who are in any manner connected with us by the ties of nature. Grant to those who profess Thy name the divine unction from on high, that they may attain more abundantly to the holiness of the Lord; that they may be saved from the devices of the evil one; that they may be comforted in

all the sorrows of life. Constrain the hearts of those that know Thee not, “to turn to the Lord and seek salvation;” may they see the sinfulness of sin; may they be convinced that the world’s pleasures are fleeting and visionary, that in God’s favor only can true joys be found; turn their hearts, turn their hearts, O Lord, towards Thy cross, that they may apply for and receive Thy blessings; especially do our petitions ascend for those, who regarding not Thy commandments, would find happiness outside Thy fold; convict, convert, sanctify and save them, we implore Thee.

Bless all for whom it is our duty to pray—the sick and the suffering, the poor and the needy, the fatherless and widow, the distressed and disconsolate, wherever they are—and hasten on the glorious time when all the nations of the earth shall rejoice as we rejoice, and the desert shall bloom and blossom as the rose. Go with us into the world and its cares; protect us from evil thoughts; make us just and upright in all our dealings; and grant that we enter not into temptation. Hear our prayers, O Lord; answer our petitions, and we will ascribe all

the glory to Thee, our most blessed Saviour, for ever. Amen.



“Great are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.”

HOLY Saviour, the dangers of the night are past; Thou hast blessed our hours of sleep with Thy protection, and we are privileged once more amidst our home comforts to unite in praising God for the light of another day. “What shall we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits toward us;” surely we do not deserve, through any merits of our own, these continued blessings: how can we, Lord, sufficiently magnify and adore Thy holy name, for Thy goodness and loving-kindness? Receive, we beseech Thee, our bodies and our souls as all the sacrifice we can offer; do with us as in Thy good wisdom Thou seest best, for all that we have and all that we are belongs to The, O most adorable Creator. May we continually reach out after Thy blessings in faith,

believing that the giving enriches us and does not impoverish Thee ; that Thou canst supply our every want, and, glory be to Thy Holy Name, will do so, but for the simple asking ; wicked men may scoff at us, the devil may offer his allurements, the world may dazzle our eyes with seeming pleasures, pride may deride us, friends may forsake us, enemies may injure us, but, trusting in Thee, the “ Giver of every good and perfect gift,” the grasp is firm, the step elastic, the eye smiles with joy, and, being with Christ, we copy Christ, and are blessed with heaven on earth. O Lord, our risen Saviour, how can we give Thee such thanks as are justly Thine for Thine inestimable blessings ? We thank Thee, that thou hast given us an insight of Thy transcendent goodness ; “ that whereas we were once blind we now see ;” that though deserving Thine everlasting condemnation, in the plenitude of Thy mercy, Thou hast vouchsafed to us a happy prospect of a blessed hereafter ; that we can commune with Thee on this earth, and far better, see Thee in Thy majestic glory among the saints in heaven, when called hence—shall we

not then, O Lord, rejoice and be glad, yea, rejoice with exceeding joy for the blessed hope that is within us?

Let Thy blessed Gospel, Lord, run and be glorified until the heathen shall know Thee, and all the ends of the earth shall praise Thee ; then, at Thy second coming, grant us, O Christ, a home among the sanctified and redeemed, that we may ascribe unceasing praises to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, our exalted Triune God. Amen.



“ Eschew evil and do good ; seek peace, and pursue it.”

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, Author and finisher of our faith, our Creator, Preserver and Benefactor, from our earliest recollections we have been the recipients of Thy goodness ; in the midst of deserved wrath Thou hast remembered mercy towards us, and when we have erred and strayed from Thy ways, like lost sheep, as a Good Shepherd, Thou hast again received us in Thy fold.

Suffer us, we beseech Thee, to return our unfeigned thanks for that preserving care, which has ever been around and about us. Surely “we are the spared monuments of Thy goodness.” As we approach Thy Mercy-Seat this morning, conscious of our own infirmities, we trust Thee in Thy promises, that thou wilt be a present God with us, and that we shall not plead in vain for those blessings which are as a well-spring of pleasure to our famishing souls. Where we fail in asking through our own ignorance and weakness, fail Thou not in giving of Thy abundance, we most humbly beseech Thee, but give us to realize with all Thy people that Thou wilt feed our souls with Thy heavenly manna. Give us a participation in Thy reconciling grace to the good of our souls, that we may rejoice yet more abundantly in the knowledge of the fact, that our petitions are not in vain.

Bless our land and nation ; give wisdom to those who are in high authority ; give counsel to the law-makers—teach them the necessity of conforming their words and actions to Thy holy laws, that justice and religion may go

hand in hand, and to the end that we may become a holy people, “zealous of good works;” incline the hearts of those who know Thee not, to seek first the Kingdom of Heaven. Show the sinner, O Lord, the wickedness of his course; turn him from his blindness, and open his eyes to the glorious light of the Gospel. Spread pure and undefiled religion throughout the length and breadth of our land; may prayer and praise abound in the palace and in the hamlet; may the nations of the earth rejoice in the glory of God; hasten on the glorious time when all shall come to know Thee, whom to know aright is life eternal. Grant, good Lord, to bless us in all the relations of life; may all that we do or say be in conformity with Thy will concerning us; teach us more fully “to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation;” may we never forget that help alone cometh from Thee and through Thee, and that by Thy mediatorial goodness we can attain to good works; O teach us, good Lord, that we may profit in holiness and merit the approbation of “well done, good and faithful servants.” In Thy kindness condescend to

watch over our household ; bless our darling children, and grant that they may be brought up to glorify Thy name. Bless our connections ; endue them with every good ; curb their passions ; encourage their endeavors to live near Thy side, and grant, O Heavenly Father, to incline their hearts, one and all, to live in peace and good cheer with each other, that so at the last, they with us may join that Heavenly Host who are for ever rejoicing in Thy kingdom. Keep us this day in Thy Holy keeping ; vouchsafe to us Thy continual presence ; and finally, with beloved ones gone before us, and best of all, with Christ, our living Head, bring us to heaven, we beg for Jesus' sake. Amen.



“ Oh, taste and see how gracious the Lord is : O blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.”

GOOD Lord, “ the young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.” How blessed Thy precious promises to us ; how soul-inspiring thy continual presence with us ;

how elevating the thought that we can “become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” in Thy Kingdom! It raises us above this poor sinful world; it gives us a foretaste of that heaven of happiness which is in reservation for us; it inspires our thoughts; it purifies our motives; it ennobles our being; it sanctifies our souls; it is the true perfection of happiness here, and full faith in attaining all the glories of a thrice blessed hereafter. May we, O Holy Jesus, our risen Saviour, drink deep from this fountain of God’s love, until we shall become full of Thy glory and rejoice for evermore. May we, O Lord, as we advance in years, go onward and upward towards divine perfection. Arm us with the Christian armor, that we may fight the fight of faith, “renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanities of this wicked world,” and with the breast-plate of righteousness as our protection, and the shield of faith as our constant companion, go on from conquering to conquest, until we shall destroy the last enemy and be crowned with victory by the great Captain of our Salvation; then, O Lord, will we ascribe

everlasting praises to Thee, our Creator, Preserver and blessed Saviour.

We trust, O Lord, that we are abundantly thankful for the many blessings we now enjoy. Blessed above hundreds of others, in the very many comforts Thou hast granted unto us, to murmur is to sin; we would, therefore, pray Thee to save us from repining; make us, we beseech Thee, truly humble and thankful for all Thy creature comforts, that we may show to those around us, not a murmuring spirit, but a contrite, humble and thankful heart, for the many rich blessings from Thy store-house of plenty. Make us truthful and sincere, we beseech Thee, in our words and dealings with our fellow-men; forbid, O Lord, that we should ever so far degrade our high calling as to deviate from Thy expressed commands in this respect; may we be guarded, O Lord, in every word, deed and action, so that we will never feel the blush of shame, nor fear the consequences of a lying tongue or a deceitful heart; may we, O Lord, be so circumspect in our lives as to cause others to "see our good works, and glorify our heavenly Father."

Watch over us, heavenly Father, as we go out into the world ; shield us, we most humbly beseech Thee, from the crafty enemy of our souls, who would allure us to danger ; may we destroy this power by the efficacy of prayer ; may the name of our blessed Saviour ever be upon our lips, and His holy religion in our hearts ; then we shall be prepared for every contingency, and enabled to cast from us everything that would harm us. Hear our prayers for such blessings as Thou seest we need ; bless our friends and our enemies ; sanctify us in all good ; instruct us in all wisdom, so that we may become the more and more like unto Thee, our living Head. All of which we beg, for Christ's sake. Amen.



“ Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips that they speak no guile.”

BLESSED Redeemer, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through whose intercession alone we are made to participate in those good things which administer to our happiness, we,

Thy blood-bought followers, children by adoption of the meek and lowly Lamb, prostrate ourselves in humble reliance that Thou wilt hear our prayers, and grant us those blessings we need as erring children. Conscious of infirmities, we look to Thee as the only source from which we can possibly derive that holy comfort which adds joy to our existence, and insures a hope within us which we would not exchange for gold or rubies—a hope reaching far beyond “this vale of tears,” and soaring to those realms of bliss where Thou art, our once crucified, now risen, Saviour, where many beloved ones are, where cherubim and seraphim chant everlasting praises to Thee, O Lord, where sorrow is no more, but joy reigns for ever, *in heaven*, our resting-place.

We beseech Thee to receive us, O Lord, more fully into Thy favor; may we consecrate our entire existence to Thy service; “Thy ways are ways of pleasantness;” O may we, good Lord, in soul and body be dedicated to Thy cause; may we from day to day learn more and more of Thee, increasing continually in the wisdom, strength and beauty of right-

eousness, "becoming rooted and grounded" in every good word and work, pressing onward from grace to greater grace, until we are enabled by the eye of faith to see Thee in everything, and appreciate thoroughly "Thy goodness and loving-kindness which has followed us all the days of our life."

In this sinful world we are continually beset by the evil one ; his temptations would allure us to destruction ; his machinations would lead us to forget Thee, the Source of all happiness. Strengthen us, good Lord, with Thy presence in the hour of danger, that we may cast away, under whatever guise, the fascination of the enemy of our souls, and, laying aside our besetting sins, "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

May we be, O Lord, really and truly Thy chosen ones, that in our motives, actions and conversation, those around us may see in us Thy holy image, and know of a surety that Christ reigns in our hearts ; being thus through Thy assistance made the ministers of good works to the salvation of precious souls, then

will we rejoice and give thanks that we are in any manner instrumental in bringing sinners to Thee, the Fountain of Mercy. With hearts sincere, we pray alike for our friends and our enemies ; bless those who love us and pray for us ; bless those who curse and abuse us ; keep us from being a hindrance in any manner to those who would seek Thy favor ; may we be just to all men in the business transactions of life ; save us from falsehood, vituperation, slander, deceit and dishonor ; may we, O Lord, “do unto others as we would be done by ;” may we be charitable with all, thereby making for ourselves an easy conscience, and receiving as our reward the blessings of God. Our hearts run out after those who are bound to us by every tie of love that earth affords—our happy little family circle here. O Lord, make for us a Paradise on earth ; here may true religion be sought and found ; here may the blessings of God abound. How happy we shall be if Thy presence abides with us here ; how much our love will increase, good Lord, for Thee and each other, and how truly can we then say, here Jesus reigns, our loving, faithful

friend! Which may God grant, if His good pleasure, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.



“O let me have understanding in the way of godliness.”

O H! what a sublime thought, gracious Father, that we are granted the happy privilege, alike with Thine angels in heaven, to approach Thy presence. Whilst they with enraptured vision gaze upon Thy matchless beauties, we by a glorious faith are permitted to see Thee spiritually, whilst that “still small voice” tells us we are with Thee and learning those lessons of wisdom which our God-Tutor can only impart. Is it thus with us, good Lord, the humblest, least deserving and weakest of Thy creatures? Are we so decidedly Thy children by adoption and free grace? Can we realize that whilst we are so inconsistent in most things, so given to wickedness, so full of uncleanness that Thou art more willing to give than we are to receive; that Thou dost open the door to our supplications and give us audi-

ence in Thy presence, forgiving our transgressions, granting us cheering anticipations, and filling our sinful hearts with joys unutterable? Surely "Thy ways are past finding out," for had we our deserts, we should be banished from Thy presence and the glories of Thy countenance for ever! All glory to Thy great goodness and infinite condescension that Thou dost remember Thy finite creatures when they seek Thy favor; that Thou dost hear, receive and bless the prayers of the humble and contrite heart! O Lord, Thy rod of affliction may be deservedly applied to our discomfort and unhappiness; we may be carried into the wilderness of despondency and doubt; the storm-clouds of adversity may darken the horizon of brightness; friends may forsake us, enemies overwhelm us, disease overtake us, and death itself be desired as a happy relief, yet would we cleave to Thee only as the physician of our souls, who can at Thy good will and pleasure remove the stings, and grant that health of body and mind which shall be the more abundantly conducive to our happiness here and safety hereafter. Thy chastening

hand is but a corrective for our sinful natures, and the more fully convinces us of our own weakness and dependence ; we rejoice, therefore, O Lord, in those afflictions, which are but disguised blessings, preparing us for the healthful enjoyment of the resulting ease and happiness, of which otherwise we may have been debarred.

We cannot ask any good thing within Thy providence, good Lord, (in faith believing) that Thou wilt not grant ; we, therefore, again beseech Thee to look down with especial favor upon our household ; bless our darlings, our servants, and all who with us are associated ; may we, the heads of the family, be continually taught of Thee, becoming proficient in the duties of our position, and at all times magnify Thy holy name and manifest Thy goodness by our chaste conversation and exemplary deportment, so that children and dependents may, with us, be Thy true disciples—thus inviting and securing Thy guardian protection within our dwelling ; may no jarring or discordant note ever find entrance here, but being of one mind and one heart, worship and serve God

in the bonds of love and in the unity of the Spirit. Give unto those near and dear to us the special tokens of Thy love ; fold our beloved friends and connections in the arms of Thy mercy ; guide them and us by Thine unerring counsel, and grant that in these days of blasphemy, trouble, rebuke, iniquity and transgression—the enemy all around us—that we may not abuse our time and talents by petty and puny dissensions, by unprofitable disputes, by idle conversation ; may the petty differences in our views be overcome by the very many opinions in which we unite, so that peace and quietness may find a habitation among us continually. Grant, heavenly Father, that in our various duties through life, Thy favor resting upon us, Thy love may soften and sanctify all our trials.

May we all be one in Christ, our Saviour, here, and one in glory everlasting ; we beg through Thy merits, O holy Saviour. Amen.

“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto Thee.”

OUR morning praises again ascend on high to the Searcher of all hearts. As the descent of the Holy Spirit finds lodgment in our souls, we are comforted and made to rejoice in the heart-felt assurance of Christ within us, the hope of glory. Great and marvelous are Thy ways, O Lord God of hosts, wonderful in power, supreme in authority, yet condescending to grant to us, the veriest sinners, the means whereby we can be saved, and an intercessor to plead in extenuation of our faults and unworthiness, a faithful, loving elder brother assuming our iniquities, pleading in terms of compassion for miserable wretches, and securing for us a hope of happiness reaching far beyond this vale of tears. We adore Thee, holy Father; we reverence Thy holy name; we worship at the feet of Thy once crucified and now risen Son; we find pleasure in Thy courts; we rejoice in Thy covenanted promises, which are fulfilled in Thy present mercies; we would be wholly and entirely, all that we have and all that we are, Thine, only Thine. Let

Thy Holy Spirit abide with us always, if such is Thy good pleasure—eradicating every appearance of evil, destroying every unprofitable member, giving speech to our tongues, light to our eyes, work for our hands, comprehension to our reason, understanding to our judgment, and peace to our souls—so that we may the more especially prove good workmen in the temple of the Lord. Heavenly Father, we would be received as faithful stewards at the last; then, O Lord, as Thou hast the lease of our lives, the very breath of our existence being in Thy keeping, teach us so to dedicate to Thy service each year, month, week, day, hour and minute of our being, that, as an army with banners, our good works may be marshalled before Thee in testimony of our appreciation of Thy goodness towards us; then receiving from Thee the welcome plaudit “well done, good and faithful servants,” we shall be privileged with Thy saints to magnify and adore Thy holy name throughout the countless ages of eternity. Hope full of glory! Anticipated joy unspeakable! Our enraptured souls, whilst fettered here, cry out “glory to God in the

highest," who fills our hearts with such a happy foretaste of undoubted privilege, secured to us through the blood of the Lamb. We are not so selfish, Divine Master, as to confine within the limits of our own endearing ties the desires of our hearts, for such a happy consummation—our hearts run out to all around us. Save, good Lord, the purchase of Thy blood; bring into the green pastures of religion the wandering sheep who are without a Shepherd; away from Thee, they find pleasure only in the works of darkness; oh, cause them to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Many there are who would adorn Thy kingdom, if by some providence they were awakened from the delusion which overshadows them. If it is Thy will, instruct us, the weakest of Thy children, that we may awaken them from this death-slumber to their souls. O Lord, we should still more adore Thee if this happy privilege could be ours. Can we, precious Saviour, advance Thy kingdom in this respect? Show us our duty and give us the strength to perform it, and we will yield Thee unceasing praise.

At such time and in such manner as Thou

seest best, grant our petitions in behalf of our family ; give to us the blessings of an entire happy family, completely consecrated to Thee in all things, so that, whether living or dying, we may be found on the Lord's side. Bless the fatherless and the widow, the sick and the dying, the poor and the disconsolate, the soldier and the sailor ; may we all rejoice in one faith and one baptism, and be eventually saved in Thy kingdom, for Christ's sake. Amen.



“Whoso leadeth a godly life, he shall be my servant.”

THOU, great Redeemer and Saviour of all who put their trust in Thee, our Lord Jesus Christ, as we again assemble for family worship, surrounded by those whom Thou hast given us, as a comfort and a blessing, we would approach Thee in childlike simplicity and with reverential awe to render unto Thee renewed thanks that we have been privileged to awaken to the light of another day, in the enjoyment of health and with the

smiles of Thy countenance still resting upon us. We again enter upon the privileges and duties of day-life, whether for sorrow or joy, in distress and anguish, or in happiness and blessings, fully realizing it is but a part of Thy plan for our everlasting good. Thou canst, in Thy good providence, save us from the evils that surround us in our dealings with mankind ; Thou canst overturn the craft, malice and deceit of those who would injure us ; O may we so love Thee, fear Thee, and keep Thy commandments, as to secure that abiding faith which assures us that all things work together for good to the children of God. If it is Thy good pleasure, may we journey through life in peace with all men ; make our crooked paths straight. O Lord, incline us to watch and pray continually, and in all things show forth Thy glory ; grant us resignation when trials come ; overrule our purposes and ways in all things, to the end that we may the better adorn our profession and merit Thy approbation, and though trials and dangers may come for a season, may we never fail to see how blessed and happy it is to have the Lord for our God. We

know, heavenly Father, how empty, how unsuitable, how vain and transitory are all the pleasures of this world; oh may our hearts be steadfastly fixed on Christ; may we yield our bodies and souls to His service, where true happiness can alone be found. Annoyances of many kinds beset our pathway; petty grievances (imaginary and real) distract our thoughts and cause us temporarily to forget to look up to Thee, the Source of all comfort; we cannot at all times view the dispensations of Thy providence as corrections for our good; we beseech Thee, the Divine Comforter, to kindle within us the spark of righteousness, until it shall become a flame of burning love for Thee, and we beseech Thee for an increase of such faith as shall cause us to lay hold of Thy promises and secure for ourselves a shield against every besetment. Establish us fully as members of Thy family, and may we view every affliction as parental correction for our good, and every blessing as a donation of loving-kindness from Thy bountiful hands. Endue us with those graces that will adorn Thy family; preserve us always in Thy especial

keeping ; grant, good Lord, to dwell in the midst of our family circle ; give us so to understand godliness in all things that we may impart to those within our household rich instructions in righteousness, that we may be a shining light and bright example to others ; let Thy Holy Spirit take possession of our hearts and abide there always. We are taught in Thy holy book, “ That a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver ;” O Lord, so control our conversation and thoughts that the words of our lips and the meditations of our hearts, may be in accordance with Thy Divine will ; may we never find expression for harsh or unnecessary language, but may we so observe Thy teachings as to fitly apply our words to the good of the souls of our fellows, and to our own everlasting welfare.

Hear our prayers in behalf of our relatives and friends, for the stranger and for our enemies, for the church and for the state, for the beggared and the needy, for the afflicted and the dying ; bestow on all the rich blessings of Thy grace ; prepare us for every trial ; give us the Christian’s love and the Christian’s faith,

and at last save us, and grant us a happy admission into Thy Kingdom, we beg for Thy Son's sake. Amen.



“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

O LORD God of Israel, it is our bounden duty, as also a happy privilege, to avail ourselves of this means of grace, whereby we are made partakers of divine blessings, strengthened, renewed, and made strong in holy desires, and advanced greatly in spiritual good. We approach Thee with humble and contrite hearts, supplicating forgiveness for our many and grievous transgressions, in faith believing Thy precious promises, and with abundant thanks for Thy tender mercies toward us, sorrowing in sincere repentance for the magnitude and variety of our sins, which come up before Thy presence continually to our condemnation. We supplicate, in all sincerity, for that pardon which yields relief to the con-

science which condemns us ; in faith believing that as thou didst fulfil the covenanted promises vouchsafed in the Old Testament Scriptures, wherein our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, appeared on earth in the form of a man and made that propitiatory sacrifice which secures to us redemption and salvation, so also the cheering promises of the New Testament Scriptures are to us as the gentle dew, giving growth, health and maturity to our regenerated hearts ; with thanksgiving, therefore, we rejoice and are glad that we are numbered among Thine elect, and realize a foretaste of those good things which are in reservation for Thy chosen people.

Incline the heart of the disobedient to forsake unrighteousness ; sanctify the heart of the believer in all goodness ; awaken the dispirited and lukewarm to zeal and activity ; clothe us with the garment of meekness and good works ; endue us with such graces as shall most adorn the children of Thy family, so that in every condition in life, and under all circumstances, we shall earnestly and nobly “ come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord

against the mighty." Give us patience, endurance, circumspection, charity and love ; remove far from us the many evils to which we are exposed ; being in all things resigned to Thy will, may we endure hardships as good soldiers, fighting the good fight of faith and laying up for ourselves a goodly inheritance in the habitations of the blest.

O Lord, eradicate " the sin that so easily besets us ;" be our Governor and Counsellor, our Strength and our Wisdom ; calm and subdue our passions ; regulate our desires ; teach us to watch as well as pray, lest we be found among the rejected. We would be with Thee always ; we would not be found wanting " when Thou makest up Thy jewels ;" secure us Thine, heavenly Father, by granting unto us Thy divine guidance, then shall we indeed be wise in all manner of godliness, and be fitted and prepared for every contingency. Having Thee for our Teacher we can laugh to scorn the world's wisdom, and become prodigies in the knowledge that profiteth our souls.

Even here, O Lord, in our midst, Thou art present, otherwise we should be miserable out-

casts. We realize Thine abounding and abundant goodness, in the preservation of our bodies and our souls, in that we are spared the ravages of disease, and granted the comforts of a happy home ; our souls are blest with the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit ; we are not cursed with unbelief, nor debarred the privilege of reading Thy holy word ; it seems as though we were the especial objects of Thy kindness and protection, and therefore we offer to Thee all that we have and all that we are. When crosses come, O Lord, may we receive and endure them with Christian fortitude, in all things praising God. Thou dost not afflict but for good ; Thou dost not grieve to harm ; all thy ways are just ways, and if past finding out on this earth, a revelation will be granted to us hereafter which will prove Thy justice and mercy. Hear our prayers, good Lord, and wherein we fail in our petitions, do “Thou that understandest the thoughts afar off,” give unto us such blessings as Thou seest we need, and we will give Thee all the glory, now, henceforth and for ever. Amen.

Evening Prayer.

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Ps. xxx. 5.

O GOD, heavenly Father, as the shadows of the night veil from our vision the light of the day, as darkness reigns abroad, as the bustling cares of day-life give way to the quiet repose of evening, as we prepare for that dream-life of slumber, to awaken protected by Thy watchful care, may we hold sweet converse with Thee, and find that relief from trial, and that joyous hope which flows only from Thy fountain of goodness.

Worldly pleasures, friendship's ties, love's endearments, life itself may change, but Thou, O Lord, art immutable; Thou art our Jesus, “the same yesterday, to-day and for ever.” The firmament above us, the earth beneath us, the elements around us, all nature may change, but

Thou, O Lord, art the same kind, indulgent, omnipresent Father. How can we then, O precious Saviour, sufficiently testify our love for Thee? Are we not “prone to wander from Thee as the sparks to fly upward?” And yet dost Thou not continually regard us in Thy mercy? All honor, praise and glory we ascribe to Thee from our grateful hearts that Thou art thus mindful of us.

Jesus, Thy perpetual and always pervading presence saves us from many snares; and when the frail bark is tossed upon the waves of adversity and almost shipwrecked, then Thou art present, commanding the waves to be still. “He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.” We cannot be cast down nor discouraged when Thou art with us; our souls can never know night whilst we have the reflection of Thy glorious radiance. How sanctifying the assurance of Thy loving words, “Lo, I am with you always,” wiping away every tear, comforting all our sorrows, Thy ear open to every prayer, knowing the besetting sins of our nature, and willing to grant us present help, Thy treasury of goodness and

loving-kindness yielding continual relief, and yet never exhausted, the Master-builder supplying every stone and pillar in the foundation of true and living faith; we worship, adore and bless Thy holy name, O Lord God of Israel.

We are especially indebted to Thee for the great and good blessings we enjoy in our family relations; our dear children are cared for by Thee in Thy condescending goodness—saved from affliction and distress; our creature comforts are all from Thy bountiful hands; Thou hast granted us food and raiment in abundance; we are spared the famine and the pestilence; we are neither deformed nor idiotic; blessed far above others in these and like benefits, we will anew repair to Thy cross and supplicate the Holy Spirit and Divine Comforter to give us grateful hearts that we may properly appreciate and worthily manifest Thy goodness in all things.

Whilst realizing sincere gratitude for Thy direct interposition, we would pray for its extension to the ends of the earth; to this end convince, O Lord, a wicked and gainsaying

people to fly to the only hope of refuge, in Thy blood-stained cross ; when justice no more shall avenge Thine honor, but mercy triumphant dispense happiness to every living creature, and then a rejoicing and emancipated world shall own Thee as Lord, and no longer be scourged for their wickedness, but Jew and Gentile rejoice alike in Thee, the Prince of Peace.

May we fulfil the duties of our life to Thy honor and glory, whether our lot be cast amongst the sinful or the godly ; give us the ability and the will to bear the cross as our shield, despite contumely or praise ; O may we do some good in Thy service, that we may be the more worthy of Thy blessings ; fit us, if Thy good pleasure, to dispense good to others, by admonition, advice, reproof and example, so that we may merit the encouraging words : “ Well done, good and faithful servant.” Preserve us from uncharitableness, O Lord, incline us to “ judge not that we be not judged ; ” knowing our own many weaknesses, may we not scorn or abuse others, but rather pray that all may have Thy love to soften the trials of

life, and Thy sanctifying grace to withstand temptation : all of which we ask Thee to grant us, in Thy great mercy, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

In Affliction.

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

“Our light afflictions are but for a moment.”

OUR petitions are especially directed to Thee, the great Physician of our souls and bodies, in consequence of Thy afflicting Providence. For some good and wise purpose, we doubt not, Thou hast seen fit to visit us with disease and trouble. We do not presume to complain or repine at Thy will concerning us, for although Thy ways are past finding out, Thy hand of affliction is never extended but for our good. Our dearly beloved is racked with pain and scorched with fever, debarred that healthful comfort with which we are blest; Thou art a physician whose skill has never been baffled; we cry unto Thee in this the day of affliction to remove the disorder, and restore to health again Thy sick servant, who

may from this correction become the better satisfied of Thy power and goodness, and be the more useful in advancing the glory of Thy kingdom ; or, if Thou so ordainest, give that holy faith and calm resignation, which shall soften pain and secure a happy exit from this vile earth, and a glorious entrance into Thy heavenly paradise, where affliction and sorrow are for ever done away. Thy will be done, not ours. O Lord. To Thee alone belongs might, majesty and dominion. Into Thy hands we resign our bodies and our souls. Whether in affliction or health, in adversity or prosperity, may we abide under the shadow of Thy wings and realize the comfortable assurance, "Lo, I am with you alway," for Christ, the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

“We Sit at the Feet of Jesus.”

“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold ; sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb.”

WE sit at the feet of Jesus ! O Thou who art our best beloved, our Father and our Elder Brother, we are inspired with profound respect, heartfelt gratitude and holy adoration for this great, good and undeserved privilege. When sore affliction visits us personally, racking with pain and scorching with fever, with the system prostrated and reason almost dethroned, our hearts rejoice within us that we can “sit at the feet of Jesus” and find ease and consolation. When the venomous tongue of slander would destroy that which we dearly prize ; when our reputation in its honest integrity is assailed, calumniated, and made a jest and by-word ; when insinuation, innuendo, and vile reproach is heaped upon us, then do our hearts rejoice, that we can “sit at the feet

of Jesus” and defy the poisonous darts of evil intention. When we are called upon to mourn the loss of the dear departed; when death stalks abroad in the land, and snatches from us our heart’s idols; as we weep for our dearest friends now no more; when darkness overshadows the brightness of our existence and all seems gloomy and lost, then do our hearts rejoice that we can “sit at the feet of Jesus” and derive those comforts which yield resignation and joy. “Thy will be done,” not ours, O Lord. When the heart is bowed down with weight of woe at the magnitude, enormity and continual repetition of those sins which beset us; when the Enemy of our souls with his subtlety would draw our hearts away from the true and living Fountain of happiness; when we mourn as without hope, and cannot find comfort on earth, then do our hearts rejoice that we can “sit at the feet of Jesus” and find a holy relief and satisfaction inexpressible that we are in sweet communion with God. When reverses come upon us, and the bright prospective of to-day is but a distressing reality on the morrow; as “riches take to themselves wings

and fly away," and all the horrors of poverty and distress stare us in the face to fret and worry us out of reason; when penury and want make us dread starvation as our portion, then do our hearts rejoice that we can "sit at the feet of Jesus" and find there an abiding faith that "they that love Him ne'er shall want." When human nature all around us seems depraved; when men in devil's shape commit atrocities too horrible to contemplate: when wickedness abounds throughout the land, and brother rises up against brother to slay: when the devil's kingdom upon earth assumes supremacy; when we are cast down in meditating the sins of the people, then do our hearts rejoice that we can "sit at the feet of Jesus," and He will guide our feet into the right path, and grant unto us such riches of grace that we can be a light to attract others to the fold of Christ. When the night is past, under God's protecting care, and we awaken to the light of day; in retrospecting His goodness and preservation through all the days and nights of our life; in beholding His manifest and manifold blessings unto us and our family; in realizing

His saving grace to us poor sinners, as the continual recipients of undeserved comforts, as the worshippers at His shrine, as the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus ; in consideration of His pain and suffering upon the cross for our souls ; in glorification of His blessed resurrection and ascension ; for His intercession and mediatorial interest in our behalf at the right hand of the Father ; through faith in His precious promises ; as in testimony for His tender mercies vouchsafed to us from the cradle ; when we see in Thee our all and in all—"the giver of every good and perfect gift," our Father and our Brother, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever—God in all and above all, transcendent in glory, yet condescending to pity our infirmities, and willing to relieve our wants, unchanged and unchangeable ; viewing Thee in every condition in this life and the one to come, then do our hearts rejoice that we can "sit at the feet of Jesus" and learn in sweet converse with Him of those great, good and marvellous things which secure happiness here and glory hereafter. O adorable Lord and Saviour, at Thy feet, in humble thankfulness,

we here dedicate our souls and bodies to Thy service ; Thine we are, at Thy feet would we be found always ; do with us as in Thine infinite wisdom Thou seest best, as all might, majesty, wisdom, goodness and blessing is with Thee, for of ourselves we are unworthy to ask any good thing or receive the slightest recognition, but through Thy listening ear and outstretched arm, we can and do receive abundant blessings. God be praised ! Hear us and save for Christ's sake. Amen.

The Holy Sabbath.

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”

ON this Holy Sabbath morning, the one day of seven for rest from labor, and entire consecration of our souls and bodies to Thy service ; in this, the accepted time of our life, when blessings abound, when all nature testifies in part God's greatness and goodness ; here in our quiet homestead, around the family altar, with old heads and young hearts, with smiling faces and prattling tongues, with peace and contentment, with comely apparel and life's subsistence, spared from the midnight foe and the devouring flame, with the Holy Bible for our guide and Thy Holy Spirit as our comforter, sitting at the feet of Jesus in adoring wonder, privileged to open our hearts for the reception of Thy blessings, surrounded with plenty, blessed with health, our reason unim-

paired, the recipients of Thy continued favors, we, Thine undeserving, unworthy servants, do yield Thee our bodies and souls as a trifling sacrifice to Thy loving goodness. Anew we offer up our all to Thy service ; our means, our time, our talents are here dedicated to Thee ; receive them, O God, we beseech Thee, as in part they may evidence our appreciation of Thy great sacrifice, whereby we are so thoroughly privileged with these Thy blessings. We would bear in constant remembrance that this Thy well appointed day, is to be kept holy ; and as we participate in the benefits afforded through the many means of grace with which Thou hast blest us, may we realize to the good of our souls, that it is a Sabbath day's journey toward heaven. As we unite with Thy disciples to worship in Thy holy temple, may we receive that Divine instruction which shall enable us to rejoice that we have been with the people of God. Bless all the ordinances of Thy Zion to the permanent good of our souls, and especially may we feel Thy presence when participating in the seal of the Covenant, the tokens of love, symbols of Thy

body and Thy blood, which was shed for us on Calvary. O good and suffering Saviour, be with us then to bless that commemoration to our soul's good, that we may rejoice and be glad that we have found acceptance in Thy sight. Go with us to the Sabbath-School, and as we there endeavor to point the lambs of the flock to the fold of Christ, may the seed sown in weakness, produce abundant fruit to Thy glory ; enable us, good Lord, to give such instructions to the young as shall be to them, now and in the future, a lasting and godly benefit. We cannot accomplish this, heavenly Father, without Thine assistance ; grant, then, we beseech Thee, that as we assume such weighty responsibility, it may be with the happy assurance that being thus called, Thou wilt grant unto us such learning as shall enable us to impart holy truths to them, and our feeble efforts redound to the good of Thy church, the glory of God, and the conversion of the souls of the dear children. May we find Thee in secret converse, good Lord, with no eye to see, save the Holy One of Israel ; may our hearts find utterance in earnest, faithful prayer for

strength, ability, confidence and wisdom, that through this medium we may be the better fitted for the observances of the Holy Sabbath. Especially would we pray for the conversion of sinners. "Paul may plant, Apollos may water, but God only can give the increase." Bless, we beseech Thee, the efforts of Thy Apostles in explaining the Holy Scriptures to the edification, instruction and good of the people; may they preach with power and zeal, withholding neither the promises nor threatenings of the law, by advice and admonition urging those without to find repose close by the bleeding side of a crucified Redeemer; may they be the instruments of Thine appointing to save sinners from destruction, to strengthen the faith of Thy followers, and build up Zion in all the corners of the earth, until pure and undefiled religion shall be known among all nations, and Thy praises sung by every tongue. Grant to us, Almighty Saviour, a Sabbath day's blessing, so that we may the better be prepared for the week day's trials; and finally, may we be participants in the happiness of a Sabbath day's joys in heaven,

which has no end ; grant our supplications, we most earnestly beseech Thee, and Thy name shall have all the glory, world without end. Amen.

The Second Advent.

“Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy; and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand.”—*Rev. i. 3.*

HAVE we ever given it serious thought that we know not the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh; when the righteous Judge, the Lord God of Hosts, shall appear on earth to take with him his elect, to transfer the chosen of Israel to the habitations of the blest, to welcome into His Father's celestial abode the saints of earth—with smiles of favor upon the godly and frowns of disapprobation upon the wicked—to assort, bless and condemn all the inhabitants of the earth? “I come, I come,” saith the Lord, “to give a new birth of happiness to my beloved, and to for ever banish from my presence and the presence of my Father those who fear me not, and keep not my commandments.” Oh! what

rejoicing for the redeemed! What weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth for the unregenerated! Joy and gladness and the song of thanksgiving from God's followers to the Lord's Anointed, making all nature melodious with rejoicings, whilst the moans of the wicked at the just judgments of an offended God, assures their condemnation already sealed. Oh, happy thought! of being then and there transplanted, to be amongst the choicest exotics of the Garden of heaven, to bask in the sunshine of everlasting love; to drink in continual blessings from the pure Fountain of inexhaustible happiness; to see our Divine Master in His majestic glory, surrounded by those loved ones for whom we sorrowed on earth; to participate with them in the glorious reality of never-ending joys; tears of joy and happiness inexpressible, to embrace with transport those kindred ties, which, though absent, have not been forgotten. Here united, with heaven for our inheritance and God our King, we will, through the countless ages of eternity ascribe unceasing praises and grateful adoration to our Father and to our

Elder Brother, Priest and King, who died that we might live, and now grants unto us “an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Oh, fearful thought! that if at His coming we are found wanting, our portion will be with those who reject God—cast off for ever from the mercy, love and goodness of our Saviour—our condemnation justly apportioned to our deserts; miserable, dejected outcasts, consigned to perdition; shut out from the glory of God and the light of His countenance; debarred association, save with uncongenial spirits; our day of grace for ever past; no mercy but justice now; cut down as an unproductive tree, yielding bitterness and contamination; lost, for ever lost! Oh! horrible, horrible contemplation. Spare us, good Lord, from Thy righteous indignation; bless us with the happy assurance, that not with the wicked, but with Thy followers we shall appear at Thy second coming; not as outcasts, but as Thy beloved children, with whom Thou art well pleased. Appreciating Thy goodness now, participating in Thy grace and mercy, may we be so fitted for every good word and work, that, if privi-

leged to see Thee on this earth, we may receive Thee as belonging to Thy family and receive Thy welcome, as “good and faithful servants;” all of which we beg for Christ’s sake. Amen.

Arranged from the 32d and 33d Psalms.

BLESSED be Thy holy name, O Lord God of Israel, that Thou hast forgiven our transgressions and covered our sins.

Blessed be Thy holy name, our great Creator, that Thou dost not impute to us iniquity, nor accuse us in spirit of guile.

When we have kept silent before Thee our bones have waxed old through roaring all the day long.

For day and night Thy hand has been heavy upon us : our moisture is turned into the drought of summer.

We have acknowledged our sins unto Thee, and our iniquities have we not hid ; we confess our transgressions to the Lord, and He forgives the iniquity of our sins.

Teach us to pray unto Thee at a time when

Thou mayst be found ; surely in the floods of great waters we cannot come nigh unto Thee.

Thou art our hiding-place ; Thou wilt preserve us from trouble ; Thou wilt compass us about with songs of deliverance ; Thou wilt instruct us and teach us in the way we should go ; Thou wilt guide us with Thine eye.

May we not be as the horse, or as the mule which have not understanding, whose mouth must be held with the bit and the bridle, lest they come near unto us.

Many sorrows are to the wicked, but to them that trust the Lord mercy shall compass them about.

May we be glad in the Lord, and rejoice with righteousness, shouting for joy, and be always upright in heart.

The righteous do rejoice in the Lord, for praise is comely for the upright.

We praise Thee with the harp and sing unto Thee with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

We sing unto Thee a new song, playing skilfully with a loud noise in many praises.

Thy word, O Lord, is right, and all Thy works are done in truth.

Thou lovest righteousness and judgment; the earth is full of Thy goodness.

By Thy word were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of Thy mouth.

Thou gatherest the waters of the sea together as an heap, Thou layest up the depth in store-houses.

Let all the earth fear then, O Lord; let all the inhabitants thereof stand in awe of Thee.

Thou speakest and it is done, Thou commandest and it stands fast.

Thou makest the devices of the enemy of no effect; Thou bringest evil counsels to naught, Thy counsels endure for ever, Thy commands to all generations.

Blessed are they whose God is the Lord, and that people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.

The Lord looketh down from heaven, He beholdeth us continually.

He fashioneth all things, He considereth all our works.

Behold Thine eye is upon them that fear Thee, upon them that hope in mercy, to deliver their souls from death and to save them from destruction.

Our souls wait for Thee, Thou art our help and our shield.

Our hearts rejoice in Thee, as we trust in Thy holy name.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee. Amen.

The Commandments.

“ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter ; fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

GOD spake these words, and said : I am the Lord thy God : Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them ; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me ; and show mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain : for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-day. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thou hast to do ; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt do no manner of work ; thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day : wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

Family. Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these, Thy laws, in our hearts, we beseech Thee.

A General Confession.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep; we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts; we have offended against Thy holy laws; we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders; spare Thou those, O God, who confess their faults; restore Thou those who are penitent, according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed.

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth :

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord ; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary ; suffered under ' Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried ; He descended into hell, the third day He rose from the dead ; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty ; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost ; the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints ; the forgiveness of sins ; the resurrection of the body ; and the life everlasting. Amen.



The Lord's Prayer.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name ; Thy kingdom come ; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven ;

give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us ; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil ; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



2 Corinthians xiii. 14.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Final.

LORD Jesus, grant that the humble efforts of Thy unworthy servant to advance the interests of Thy kingdom on earth, and to make pure and undefiled religion a constant companion, may be so crowned with Thy blessings as to secure "the soul's desire" for the safety, welfare and happiness of the home circle here, and their everlasting peace hereafter. I pray for these blessings, Lord Jesus, not from any merit or goodness of my own, but in faith believing Thy precious promises, and in firm reliance upon Thy intercession.

Grant my "soul's desire," O Heavenly Father, I beg for Christ's sake. AMEN.

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